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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/895,950	07/17/1997	ANDREAS WINTER	HOE-90/F-333	1558

23416 7590 08/29/2002
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EXAMINER

TESKIN, FRED M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

28

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 08/895,950	Applicant(s) Winter, et al.	
	Examiner Fred Teskin	Art Unit 1713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
 Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 3, 2002
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some* c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

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1. Acknowledgment is made of the amendment and new Assent of Assignee filed April 3, 2002.

2. The Assent of Assignee filed April 3, 2002 is not proper because, while the assignee has established ownership by citation of reel and frame number, the submission fails to set forth the authority of the persons signing the assent to act on behalf of the assignee. See MPEP 324(B).

3. This application is objected to under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as lacking the written consent of all assignees owning an undivided interest in the patent. The consent of the assignee must be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172. See MPEP § 1410.01.

A proper assent of the assignee in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172 and 3.73 is required in reply to this Office action.

4. Claims 1-15 and 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251 as lacking basis for reissue, because by statute a reissue application can only be granted for the unexpired portion of the term of the original patent. Office records indicate that the maintenance fee due 7.5 years after the patent issue date has not been paid; therefore, the patent has expired. Reissue applications can only be issued for unexpired patents, *In re Morgan*, 990 F.2d 1230, 26

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USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1983). To reinstate the original patent, a petition for retroactive payment of maintenance fees must be filed and granted. See MPEP 1415.01.

5. The reissue declaration filed with this application and the supplemental reissue declaration filed December 27, 2001 are defective because the errors sought to be corrected are not proper. The original declaration is actually a copy of the reissue declaration filed in the first reissue (application no. 08/324,260, Re 37,208). Since that reissue corrected the errors identified in the original declaration, those errors are not a proper basis for the instant reissue application. The subsequently filed supplemental declaration does not define an error - i.e., "the claims were amended because of prior art that I was not aware of and 35 USC 112 rejections ..." (Supp. Dec., p. 1, 2d parag.) is not an error correctable by reissue.

6. Claims 1-15 and 19-26 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251 as set forth above. See 37 CFR 1.175.

The nature of the defect(s) in the declaration is set forth in the discussion above in this Office action.

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7. Applicant is notified that any subsequent amendment to the specification and/or claims must comply with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(h) and 1.173(b)-(g).

8. In view of the new issues raised above, this action is made non-final.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner F. M. Teskin whose telephone number is (703) 308-2456. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM, and can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reached on (703) 308-2450. The appropriate fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 (non-after finals) and (703) 872-9311 (after-finals).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


FRED TESKIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
1713

FMTeskin/08-14-02